

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105662

70

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 NEA-14 IO-14

/113 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/TUR: H.E.KIRBY

APPROVED BY S/S: WHLUERS

EUR - MR. STABLER

EUR/TUR - R.S.DILLON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105662

TOSEC 850

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PGOV TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY: COALITION GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUATION IN  
OFFICE A TOSS-UP

1. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IS WEIGHING DESIRABILITY OF  
HAVING HIS GOVERNMENT RESIGN FOLLOWING TURKISH PARLIAMENT'S  
REFUSAL TO INCLUDE IN GENERAL AMNESTY LEGISLATION PASSED  
LAST WEEK A CLAUSE WHICH WOULD HAVE FREED ABOUT 4000  
LEFTIST POLITICAL PRISONERS. DEFEAT OF RELEVANT PORTION  
OF LEGISLATION OCCURRED WHEN 20 PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES  
FROM NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), CONSERVATIVE JUNIOR  
COALITION PARTNER IN GOVERNMENT LED BY ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN  
PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), VOTED AGAINST IT.

2. VOTE IN QUESTION WAS NOT A PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF NO  
CONFIDENCE IN ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, AND PRIME MINISTER IS  
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PAGE 02 STATE 105662

UNDER NO PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE TO RESIGN. HOWEVER, RPP

CAMPAIGNED IN LAST OCTOBER'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION ON PROMISE TO INCLUDE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ANY AMNESTY LEGISLATION THE PARTY MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY MOVE THROUGH PARLIAMENT. MOREOVER, PRIME MINISTER ALLEGEDLY WONDERS WHETHER NSP, HAVING BROKEN RANKS ON FIRST SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF LEGISLATION PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT, WILL NOT REPEAT PERFORMANCE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AND WHETHER, THEREFORE, RPP WOULD NOT BETTER PROTECT ITS REPUTATION BY RESIGNING NOW.

3. LEADERS OF RPP, WHO ARE ANGRY WITH THEIR COALITION PARTNER, HAVE AUTHORIZED ECEVIT TO RESIGN UNLESS HE DECIDES NSP CAN BE RELIED ON IN FUTURE LEGISLATIVE TRIALS. PRIME MINISTER WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET MAY 20 WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN, NSP LEADER, TO TRY TO DETERMINE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE. REPORTS FROM ANKARA INDICATE THAT WHILE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN AND AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN ALMOST CONTINUOUS SINCE LAST THURSDAY, THERE IS NO AIR OF CRISIS. OBSERVERS PLACE ODDS ON GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUATION IN OFFICE AT FIFTY-FIFTY. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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